



Top: The representative of FAAC, the representative US Embassy, management and staff of the Department of Media and Communication, and training participants at the Opening Ceremony of Youth Social Media Promotion on March 19, 2011 at DMC.

Down: Mr. TIENG Sopheap Vichea, acting head of DMC, gives a remark for closing training of Youth Social Media Promotion on April 02, 2011

IN THIS ISSUE:

- + Provincial networking event with educational institutions
- + The US exchange forum in Battambang
- + Alumni profile: Mr. Om Soryong
- + Fulbright Lecture Series: Banking in Cambodia
- + More than just a volunteer
- + Youth Social Media Promotion (Blog and Creative Content)
- + Major and Career Fair 2011

Provincial networking event with educational institutions

By CHÂN Sovannara, FAAC Communications Assistant

To strengthen the network and to promote the US exchange programs to the provincial universities, Fulbright Alumni Association of Cambodia (FAAC) collaborating with the Public Affairs Section of the US embassy in Phnom Penh, on February 12, 2011, organized one afternoon networking event with educational institutions at the American Conner based in the University of Management and Economic (UME) in Battambang province. The Public Affairs Officer of the US embassy in Phnom Penh, Alumni Coordinator, the representatives of six universities from Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey provinces, one Non-Governmental Organization: Substantial Cambodia, and some of FAAC volunteers participated in the event.

At the beginning of the event, Mr. Theam Rottanak, President of FAAC, gave a brief speech about the background, mission, and vision of the association toward the representatives from each university. "FAAC has within its constitution a vision to foster peace, reconstruction and development in Cambodia through the promotion of access to quality education and cross-cultural understanding," he said. He added, "we have a mission to fully utilize the available resources such as our alumni members, advisors and volunteers to promote educational and cultural exchanges, academic and professional counseling, community services and volunteerism."

With these clear mission and vision, the association has generated more dimensions in educating university students, on study-skills, Lecture Series program on a wide array of expertise and how to succeed in applying for scholarship, in cities and provinces such as Phnom Penh, Kompong Cham, Pursat, Battambang, Preah Sihanouk, Takeo, Kompong Speu and other places.

During that networking occasion, the Public Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy, Mr. Mark Wenig also presented as an honorable guest and gave a meaningful remark with support to the activities of FAAC and the promotion of the Fulbright Scholarship to the representatives of each university.

Within this two-hour session, moderated by Mr. Chan Virak, who is a Fulbright alumnus 2006-2008, this event was very interesting and fruitful. Mr. Virak also showed the activities and work plans of FAAC including the association's Fulbright Lecture Series amongst universities and higher education institutions, providing academic advice to students, and other new activities of 2011. Mentoring program is a new FAAC activity which gives the students in the provinces an opportunity to share the academic life in city and meet with the FAAC alumni face-to-face for preparing scholarship.

To respond to the objective of this event, FAAC gave a chance all representatives from each university to question and discuss strategies and activities which motivate the students in studying hard and applying for scholarship. **FAAC**

The US exchange forum in Battambang

By CHÂN Sovannara, FAAC Communications Assistant

Battambang: On February 13, 2011, a group of alumni of the US exchange programs including Fulbright Program, Study of United States Institute for Student Leaders Program, Global Undergraduate Program (UGRAD), Undergraduate Intensive English Language Program, and South East Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) organized a discussion forum with university students at the conference hall of University of Battambang (UBB). Around 300 students from several universities in Battambang, the representatives of each US exchange... **(continue to page 3).**



Mr. Mark Wenig, Public Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy, giving speech with support to the FAAC activities at the American Conner based in the University of Management and Economic on February 12, 2011.



Participating alumni panelled a discussion on applying for scholarships abroad and sharing of their experiences from U.S. on Feb. 13



Photos: Educational project activities of FAAC and contribution of alumni to students and universities in January - March 2011

To showcase our alumni's contributions to the society, we create this space to feature one of our alumni. In this edition, we feature Mr. Om Soryong, instructional designer, senior lecturer, Deputy Head of the English Department, Institute of Foreign Languages, Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Please tell us about your work and educational background.

I am currently the deputy head of the English Department of the Institute of Foreign Languages of the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Being the deputy head, I am in charge of syllabus design and material development, training workshops, library resources, and academic consultation. In addition to my management position and responsibilities, I am a senior lecturer teaching Global Studies 2 and Global Studies 3 to year 2 and year 3 students in the Bachelor of Education in TEFL and the Bachelor of Arts in English programs. I finished my Bachelor of Education in TEFL course at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in 1993, and I was selected to be a lecturer teaching English as a foreign language in the Bachelor of Education program in the same year.

What was the most important event that significantly changed your life? Why?

The most important one that had a significant impact on my life was when I first became a lecturer at the Institute of Foreign Languages in 1993. I was ecstatic about my first job as a university lecturer. How did this lecturing position change my life? Well, it changed my personality as well as inspired me to apply for scholarships to pursue my study overseas. In terms of personality, I realize that I have changed myself a lot since I began teaching. Frankly speaking, I used to be shy and reserved. I always took things seriously because I believed that learning was effective only when it was a serious business. But I was wrong. Actually, learning was also about fun. So how could I create fun in my lesson? First of all, I knew that I had to change my behavior and attitude toward teaching. I began to build up my confidence and increase my interaction with the students. Gradually, I became an approachable and friendly person and established a good rapport with the students.

What led you to pursue a Fulbright scholarship?

Well, before I went to the States, I had heard a lot of people talking about the Fulbright scholarship, and I began to find out more about it by talking to some friends who used to receive this scholarship and by asking for some information from the people working in the Public Affairs Section at the American Embassy in Phnom Penh. The more I learned about the Fulbright scholarship, the more intriguing it was to me. I had always wanted to study in the United States for my postgraduate degree, so this was a golden opportunity for me to fulfill my wish. I decided to prepare myself for the scholarship process by studying for the TOEFL and filling in the application forms required by the selection committee. Finally, I won the scholarship. To me, the Fulbright scholarship is one of the most prestigious scholarships which provide people with an excellent chance to build their learning and working capacity and to upgrade themselves socially and culturally.

How has the Fulbright program impacted your current employment and career goals?

The Fulbright scholarship provided me with numerous academic, social, and cultural benefits. Academically, being a Fulbright grantee at Southern Illinois University for two years, I gained a considerable knowledge from the courses I had attended. As a matter of fact, Instructional Design, my major, was a great challenge to me partly because I was not familiar with most of the concepts and theories and partly because the course required a great deal of painstaking work. However, my earnest attempt and dedicated involvement in the learning process helped me achieve my goal – becoming an instructional designer. Apart from my academic achievements, I had a chance to meet a lot of people from different countries around the world and, of course, American people themselves, made friends with them, and exchanged ideas with them. Such social interaction exposed me to a myriad of global perspectives which broadened my understanding of the world. In addition, being the only Cambodian Fulbrighter at the school, I was proud to share my knowledge of Cambodian culture with the other Fulbrighters and students from the other countries. I made presentations about certain cultural aspects of Cambodia to a group of Fulbrighters and had an informal talk with a group of high school students, telling them about the country. I also learned a lot about different cultures from the other Fulbrighters and international students.

In what capacity do you think that your work contributes to the development of Cambodia?

As the Deputy Head of the English Department, I try my best to fulfill my duties. I make the best use of my knowledge and skills I have acquired from my studies overseas, especially from the Fulbright program to improve my work performance and to increase my instructional effectiveness to ensure the quality of the English Education at the Institute of Foreign Languages as a whole and to promote my professional development in particular. For example, I apply my knowledge of curriculum development, message design, and instructional design to help me redesign and redevelop the institute's syllabuses to facilitate the students' learning as well as to cater to their needs. I also organize workshops for both lecturers and students to increase their capacity in teaching and learning in terms of professional and self development. In addition to my work on curriculum and material development and training, I take part in the Fulbright lecture series program by volunteering to give lectures on Study Skills and Scholarship Application to and run workshops on TOEFL preparation for students at other colleges and universities in Phnom Penh and in a number of provinces in the country to raise their awareness of effective learning and of the Fulbright scholarship application process, and to introduce them to the TOEFL Test so that they are familiar with the test and are ready for their scholarship application.

Do you have any advice for students regarding their success in learning and applying for scholarships?

I am more than happy to share some of my success experiences with all students. One thing that every student needs to remember is that success comes with a price, and that price is their determination and commitment. If a student is dedicated to his or her learning by striving for outstanding performance no matter how many obstacles he or she encounters, he or she will surely succeed. And, of course, to ensure success in learning, a student needs to know how to learn, how to manage time to maximize his or her learning, and how to extend his or her knowledge. I hope that every student will do his or her best to become a successful learner or a successful scholarship candidate to make his or her dream come true. **FAAC**



Mr. Om Soryong, Fulbright Scholar 2000-2002

EDUCATION

- 2000 – 2002: Master of Science (Instructional Design), Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, USA
- 1998: Specialist Certificate (Language Curriculum and Materials Development), Regional Language Centre, Singapore
- 1995: Graduate Diploma (TESOL), University of Canberra, Australia
- 1994: Certificate (Academic Reading and Writing), Regional Language Centre, Singapore
- 1988 – 1993: Bachelor of Education (TEFL), Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

WORK

- 2002 – now: deputy head, instructional designer, senior lecturer, Experience English Department, Institute of Foreign Languages, Royal University of Phnom Penh
- 1995 – 2000: senior lecturer and deputy head, English Department, Institute of Foreign Languages
- 1993 – 1995: lecturer and head of resources, English Department, Institute of Foreign Languages. **FAAC**



Photos: Handling of certificates to the participants of Youth Social Media Promotion at DMC on April 02, 2011

(...continue from page 1) ...program, the Public Affairs Officer of the US embassy in Phnom Penh, and some FAAC volunteers participated in this event.

The aim of the forum was to advice and encourage students to hunt for scholarships by working hard and improve their English proficiency. In this forum, all representatives of US exchange programs broadly shared their experiences and good ideas in applying for each program provided by the US government. Mr. Chea Kagnarith, a Fulbright scholar 2008-2010, said that applying for scholarship requires not only being outstanding in class, but also it requires you to have a clear goal and objective for your graduate studies and career.

This forum became more interesting when most of the students expressed their curiosity of what the speakers mentioned by asking many questions to the panel alumni of US exchange programs.

FAAC

Fulbright Lecture Series: Banking in Cambodia

By CHÂN Sovannara, FAAC Communications Assistant

January 5: Ms. Theam Romny, Fulbright alumna 2005-2007, conducted a lecture on introduction to banking and banking products to a class of 30 students at the Institute of Foreign Languages. They are senior students in their final year level to get their Bachelor of Arts in English for International Business (IB class). Ms. Romny started with a definition and types of banks. Banks are financial intermediaries that provide financial services such as receiving deposits (current/checking accounts), providing loan on various forms (car loans, home-mortgaged loans, business loans) and debit/credit services, and certificate of deposit, etc. Banks are also a useful economic tool with the main purpose to let people save money or borrow to start or expand a business.



THEAM Romny, Fulbright scholar 2005-2007, lectures on banking in Cambodia at Institute of Foreign Languages.

There are many different types of banks. Central bank (e.g. the National Bank of Cambodia, also known as "Red Bank") issues money on behalf of the government, set interest and exchange rates, and regulates the money supply. Commercial banks, originally concentrated on meeting the needs of businesses, serve as places where a business could safely deposit its funds or borrow money when necessary. Many commercial banks also make loans and offer accounts to individuals, but they put most of their effort into serving business (commercial) customers. Besides commercial banks, there are savings banks or specialized banks, and other types of microfinance institutions called savings and loan associations (S&Ls), cooperative banks, and credit unions. Today they offer many of the same services, but at one time, they were very different from one another.

With their many useful and powerful functions, banks help circulate money and balance the money supply; and thus simulate economic and business activities. Ms. Romny concluded the session by giving the students her view on the current businesses and economic outlook in Cambodia today and the near future. Students were very interested in the lecture and asked many questions related to banking and finance and products and services provided by banks. It should be noted also that Ms. Romny is currently a Branch Manager at Toul Kork Branch of the Advanced Bank of Asia, Ltd. (ABA Bank).

FAAC

More than just a volunteer

By LEANG Sovannarith, FAAC Communications Assistant

My perception of life has changed since I started volunteering with the FAAC in 2009. The FAAC has shown me the reality of social work and the other sides of life. Through FAAC's volunteer works and project activities, I incorporate the experience of teamwork and a spirit of sharing to improve my socialization skills.



LEANG Sovannarith, FAAC Volunteer, lectures on his volunteerism work.

Working together with Fulbright alumni as well as other volunteers allows me to form a team and, at the same time, increases chances of making friends with them. Since my first time volunteering with FAAC, I am automatically a part of this association, which is something very unique and special.

Besides team work, my level of responsibility has dramatically developed to meet the needs of the team. Not until I work here did I realize how important it is to be responsible. A single minute can really make a huge difference, and thus I learn how to be serious and accountable for the FAAC work. Additionally, a sense of sharing is seen through contribution of time of the Fulbright alumni. I am so glad to see so many Cambodian scholars willingly spare their time and share experiences with students even though they have a very busy working schedule. Their actions have been a true inspiration for me to continue working with this organization.

So when people ask me what I learn from volunteering with FAAC, I say "I learn to work in groups and contribute to the community by forming a team and immerse myself with them. I develop my sense of being responsible. The Fulbright alumni have set a fire that burns inside of me, a fire that drives me to share what I have with others."

FAAC

Youth Social Media Promotion(Blog and Creative Content)

By HANG Monycheat, FAAC Communications Assistant

To promote youth and social media via online communication, the Fulbright Alumni Association of Cambodia (FAAC) with financial support from the US Embassy in Cambodia conducted a very useful training called "Training on Blog and Creative Content", which was organized by Department of Media and Communication (DMC). About 30 students from various universities including the alumni from the US Exchange Program were selected for the three-full-day training. "Although we have only three days for the training, we will try our best to show you as much as we can about what personal blog is and how to create it effectively and usefully, and how to take and edit quality photos, videos and audios to use in your personal blog," a DMC instructor said. Despite having short time of study, all trainees were very satisfied with this training and they expected that FAAC will organize and conduct such training again in the future for other students.

FAAC



Training activities of Youth Social Media Promotion in DMC Computer Lab, Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Youth Social Media Promotion

Training on Blogging and Creative Content

19 March - 2 April, 2011

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Organized by The Fulbright Alumni Association of Cambodia
Supported by The Department of Media and Communication, Royal University of Phnom Penh



Alumni of all the US exchange programs, representatives of the US Embassy, the management of the DMC, training participants and FAAC volunteers posed a picture after the end of training on April 02, 2011.



ពិព័រណ៍ជំនាញសិក្សា និង ការងារ ២០១១

MAJOR AND CAREER FAIR 2011

Would you like to...

- ... get helps in selecting the **major** studying at university?
- ... receive tips for **scholarship** studying abroad?
- ... be ready for the **job** you wish in the future?

If you do...

- ... Please, attend the Major and Career Fair 2011
- Venue: **National Institute of Education**
- Date: **26 June 2011 at 8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

What's special?

- => advise on how to select the right majors
- => tips to win scholarship
- => information about the current job market

It's your chance, don't wait...

For free admission, please register by **19 June 2011**

Registration after June 19 will result in \$5 admission fee charged

Registration, please contact:

Tel: **013 757 443/ 078 686 148**

Email: **camfulbrighters@gmail.com**

Facebook: **http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fulbright-Alumni-Association-of-Cambodia**



Organized by



Supported by



FAAC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Cambodia for those valuing education and development.

Communications Coordinator

Seang Soleak, Fulbright Scholar, 2007-2009

E-mail: **soleak@gmail.com**

FAAC Communications Assistants

+ Chhn Sovannara, Senior, Department of Media and Communication (RUPP); E-mail: **csovnannara@gmail.com**

+ Hang Monychet, Senior, Institute of Foreign Languages (RUPP); E-mail: **monychet.ifl@gmail.com**

+ Leang Sovannarith, Senior, Institute of Foreign Languages (RUPP); E-mail: **sovnannarith16@yahoo.com**

Text Editors

+ In Vichea, Fulbright Scholar, 2006-2008

+ Theam Rottanak, Fulbright Scholar, 2002-2004

Financial support provided by

The Embassy of the United States of America in Cambodia

For more information:

FAAC Office at UP, Ground Floor, Building A
University of Puthisastra
Street 180 & 184, Boeng Rang, Phnom Penh

FAAC Office at IFL, Ground Floor, Building E,
Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL)
Royal University of Phnom Penh, Russian Fed Blvd

E-mail: **camfulbrighters@gmail.com**

Tel: (855) 13 75 74 43; (855) 13 72 87 82

Website: **http://www.camfulbrighters.org**

or **http://www.cambodia.usembassy.gov/faac.html**

University in Cambodia can request up to 300 copies of the FAAC Newsletter by sending an e-mail to **FAACNewsletter@gmail.com**.

To save the printing costs and to help save a few trees, please write to **FAACNewsletter@gmail.com** to receive your copy of the FAAC Newsletter via e-mail in an Adobe PDF file format.